In regard to the question of the registration of *vallams*, it is only recently that the concession of abolishing annual registration and making a single initial registration alone necessary, has been granted. This meant a loss of ten thousand rupees annually to Government, and I hope that you will be satisfied with that.

112. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. K. AIYAPPAN (*Shertallai taluk, Group 1*) said that Shertallai was one of the biggest taluks of the State, thickly populated and yielding a good revenue. Its importance was due to its advantageous position between the two leading ports of the Malabar coast, *viz.*, Alleppey and Cochin. But the taluk was lacking in facilities of communication. As a result of many representations, the Government sanctioned the opening of a canal from Alleppey to Shertallai running through the heart of the taluk. But the work was abandoned after completing 6 miles of the canal. Subsequently, the Government opened a road from Alleppey to Arur running straight through the taluk. But the road was not very useful to the taluk without some cross roads. The road problem of the taluk could be solved by constructing more roads to a total length of 40 to 50 miles. The following cross-roads were absolutely necessary and should be constructed early :—

(i) A road from the 8th mile, 2nd furlong, of the Alleppey-Arur road to the Mararikulam beach. The road would be about two miles in length and an estimate for the same had been sanctioned.

(ii) A road from Kanjikuzhi to Muhamma which was a commercial centre and thickly populated.

(iii) A road from the 10th mile of the Alleppey-Arur road to Kanichikulangara where there was a famous temple, a flourishing English school and a busy market.

(iv) Three roads, one from the 10th mile, 7th furlong, of the Alleppey-Arur road to meet the Tannirmukkam-Muhamma road, another from Ottapanna at the 16th mile of the Alleppey-Arur road to Kanichikulangara and a third from the above-said place to the beach *via* Thanki church.

(v) A road from the 32nd mile of the Arthingal road to the beach.

(vi) Extension of the Tannirmukkam-Muhamma road to meet the Mannanchery-Avalukunnu road.

The member said that these roads would not exceed 30 miles in length and that the urgent necessity for opening these roads had been repeatedly urged on the attention of the Government. He requested the Dewan to pay a visit to the taluk to learn first hand the hardship suffered by the people for want of facilities of communication in the taluk.

Speaking of canals in the taluk, the member said that the following canals were necessary :—

(i) Extension of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal from Shertallai to meet the Varanam Puthen *todu*.

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(ii) Opening of a canal from Muttam lake to Pozhichal, crossing the Alleppey-Arur road at the 16th mile.

(iii) Opening of a canal from the Vembanad backwater to Pozhichal cutting the Alleppey-Arur road at the 8th mile.

The canal joining the Kattachira and the Varanam Puthen *todu* should be improved.

The following bridges should be constructed —

(i) A bridge across the Alleppey—Shertallai canal south-west of the District Hospital.

(ii) A bridge across the Chenganda river.

(iii) Two bridges, one over the Muttattu *todu* between the oil mills and the other over the Muttattiparambu canal near the market in Srikantamangalam *kara*.

The Alleppey—Arur road was incomplete without a bridge connecting Ida-Cochin with Arur. Negotiations should therefore be made with the Cochin State for the construction of the bridge.

An irrigation bund should be put up and maintained at Prayikari *padam* to prevent the inflow of salt water. This would benefit about 900 *paras* of paddy fields.

Scarcity of good drinking water was keenly felt in the Shertallai taluk. Sinking of public wells would to a great extent supply the want of the people in this respect. Two wells, one near the Munsiff's Court junction and another at Ottapana should be sunk immediately.

There was not sufficient accommodation in the local District Hospital for in-patients. The waiting room for out-patients was too small. The thecontagious diseases shed was in a dilapidated condition. A compound wall and a burial ground should be provided for the hospital. A lady doctor and nurses should also be appointed there.

The taluk was lacking in educational facilities. Paucity of schools was keenly felt, more so of girls' schools. The taluk was far behind in female education. An English high school for girls should be established at Shertallai at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: You have given a full list, Mr. Aiyappan, of roads, canals and bridges. We will try to make provision in the next budget for dealing with some of them. Estimates are ready in many cases, and in other cases, investigation will be made and reports prepared.

The Sanitary Commissioner says he has not received any request from the taluk about wells. He has enquired into the matter and has reported that some wells are necessary. Estimates are ready in some cases; and those very necessary will be carried out as soon as possible. But, it would be advisable to acquaint that officer with the needs of your place.

The District Hospital was improved recently, and further improvements must wait until funds are available. So too with the case of the appointment of a lady doctor and nurses.

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As I have already said, Government have laid down the policy that they will not open new departmental schools except in very rare cases. You must prove that in any particular case an exception has to be made.

The water supply scheme will be investigated in due course.

113. Needs of the Shertallai taluk.

MR. N. KOCHUPILLAI KAIMAL (*Shertallai taluk, Group II*) first represented about the necessity for establishing a branch of the Land Mortgage Bank at Shertallai.

The fcllowing were the other local needs :—

The Shertallai-Arukutti road should be completed early. A bridge fit for vehicular traffic should also be constructed over the Poochakkal canal. A road should be opened from Panavalli Pandakasala *kadavu* to meet the above-said road. The length of the road would be only one and a half furlongs.

Two big ferry boats and additional ferry men should be provided at the Perumbalam ferry in the Pandakasala *kadavu*.

Cross roads should be opened from Taikkattusseri Palli *kadavu* to Makkal *kadavu* on the east and to Turavur Nadakkal in the west.

Another cross road should be opened from Ponnamveli to Kelamangalattu *kadavu* and thence to Ottappannakkal.

Two ferry boats should be provided in Muttattu *kayal*.

The Pullen and Prasseri *chiras* should be strengthened and provided with locks. This was essential for the successful cultivation of the *kari* lands in Vayalar East.

The Pookaita *chira* between Panavalli and Taikattusseri should be similarly strengthened and provided with a lock. This would be of great benefit to nearly 5,000 *paras* of paddy fields.

The bunds of the Annala *todu*, the Brahmaniveettil *todu*, the Pocchakkal *todu* and the Puttur *todu* should be strengthened and locks provided therein. This would benefit an extent of nearly 12,000 *paras* of paddy fields.

A Munsiff-Magistrate's Court should be established at Arukutti. There would then be no necessity for the Additional Munsiffs' Courts at Shertallai and Vaikam.

The vernacular primary school building at Kodanturuttu should be reconstructed. An Arabic *Munshi* should also be sanctioned for the school.

Class VI should be opened in the Perumbalam V. M. school.

The Odampalli V. P. school should be converted into a V. M. school.

An assistant medical officer should be sanctioned for the hospital at Taikkattusseri.

The suggestions of the Economic Depression Committee should be given effect to immediately

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